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False-colored scanning electron micrograph showing the proximal colon of germ-free mice colonized with bacteria of the genus *Clostridium* (average length ~3.5 micrometers). *Clostridium* species indigenous to the mouse colon stimulate intestinal epithelial cells to induce regulatory T cells, which contribute to the suppression of unfavorable inflammation and allergic responses. See page 337.

Image: Kenya Honda, Department of Immunology, University of Tokyo

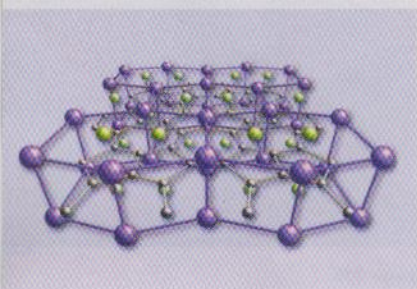
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